STEAMSHIP DEAL

Americans to Control Ocean Freight Lines.

FLEET COMBINE

American, Leyland, White Star and Canard Companies In It.

Plan for Joint Control Put Through by Mr. J. P. Morgan-Representatives of the Companies Now on Their Way to This Country to Ratify the Deal -Passenger Traffic Not to Be Affected by This Merger-Plan Means Cheap Freight Rates for Steel Trust Products.

For the past several months stories have been current in New York and London to the effect that a merger of some of the great British steam ship lines with the American line would be effected soon by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan The Leyland line was purchased by Mr. Morgan, but as often as stories arose that the great American financier was about to get control of lines like the Cunard or the White Star, they were authoritatively denied on both sides

It may be now stated positively that within a short time the announcement will be made of the most important union of ocean steamship lines ever before attempted and completed. For the past few months Mr. Morgan has been at work on this matter and within the past few days the details of the merger have been practically completed in his New York office.

This announcement is made on the authority of a person in Wall Street who is in a position to know what has been going As those most heavily interested in the transaction are not ready to make known to the public what they have accomplished, the details cannot now be given. This much, however, may be stated: The Americans most intimately concerned in the deal are Mr. Morgan, lement A. Griscom, President of the International Navigation Company, and his associates in the management of that Pennsylvania Railroad; Henry H. Rogers of the Standard Oil Company; James J. Hill, John D. Rockefeller and William Rockefeller, and others of the financiers and railroad men who are interested with Mr. Morgan in the community-of-interest group of railroads and in the United States Steel Corporation.

The man who made the bare announcement to THE SUN was asked:

"Is this union to be of all the great steamship lines with the American Line?" 'I cannot and will not go into details."

to be a union of Anglo-Saxon lines as against the Germans, so to speak?"

That would be neither a very bad nor very good guess," was the reply. "If it be an Anglo-Saxon union then, maybe, the Germans will want to come in after a while. But might there not be a union of all the Anglo-Saxon freight-carrying ships, with the passenger business to be divided up as it is now?"

From this remark and from what was learned from other sources the conclusion was drawn that the scheme involves a on of the American and Leyland lines with the freight lines of the Cunard and White Star lines, the united lines to be under the management of the present managers of

the American Line. Such a union would clear the way for the transport of the European freight of the Pennsylvania, New York Central, Baltimore and Ohio and the other railroads in whose direction Mr. Morgan outs a large figure, by s line of steamers practically owned by

the owners of the railroads. It also means that the products of the United States Steel Corporation will have a clear advantage in freight rates over the products of all competing companies, not

COMING TO RATIFY THE DEAL.

bleamship Representatives on the feitte Passenger Traffic Sut Affected.

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Lavancool. Jan 17 The Journal of Commerce, summerating on the whit to the United States of J. Bruce Lessey, of the White Star Line, W. Strick van, a large place. holder in the enter company: W J. Pirrie. bend of the emispoing form of Hariania & World and a direction in last, the Leybard and With a Rich exceptional and With the Rich exceptions to Hill a production of the Aderican line who who accounty elected chairment of the Leybard enterphay, now a second last Y Margins & the engage of the elected in the control of the appearance of the laybard enterphasy and the deposit of the rapidly an agreement for the characteristics of the rapidly Band and the deposit of the rapidly an agreement for the transference of the rapidly Band of the Vision filter free the control of the research are for the rapidly and the control of the research and the research are for the rapidly and the research and the research are for the rapidly and the research and the research are for the research and the research are the research and the research are the research and the research and the research are t

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MEXICAN EARTHQUAKE KILLS 600

Church Falls Down on Worshippers in Chilpaneingo-State Capitol, Business Houses and Many Dwellings Wrecked.

CITY OF MEXICO, Jan. 17.-A telegram has reached this city announcing that the city of Chilpancingo, in the State of Guerrero, Mexico, suffered severely from the earthquake shock yesterday, and that 600 persons were killed

The shock of the earthquake was felt in many cities and towns of the republic. Beyond a few cracks in buildings, no damage was done in the City of Mexico.

Details from Chilpancingo are meagre. but scattering reports received here say the town is in ruins. The State capitol, the parish church and many business houses and residences were demolished and there is much suffering.
One of the edifices that suffered most was

the Federal telegraph office, which accounts for the meagreness of the news that has so far reached this city. The telegraph employees, all of whom were uninjured, quickly proceeded to erect an improvised telegraph office on the outskirts of the city.

The number of deaths was greater in the parish church than in any single place, as a crowd of worshippers who gathered there for the afternoon service. The solid masonry walls and roof came toppling down on the worshippers and many persons were killed.

Troops have been ordered to cooperact in the work of rescue. Until this work is completed it will be impossible accurately to learn the number of victims.

This is one of the most destructive earthquakes that have ever occurred in Mexico. The greater part of the population of Chilpancingo are now camping out under tents around the town, which is five days' journey from the national capital.

The State of Guerrero has always been the focus of seismic disturbances. The duration of the Chilpancingo shock was

Reports say that the earthquake was also intense at Iguala, in the State of Guerrero, destroying the parish church and many buildings in the city and neighborhood. Among the latter was the sugar mill of Gen. Frisbie, an American. The mill had just been completed and fitted up with American machinery at a cost of \$200,-The property loss is immense throughout the State of Guerrero.

Chilpancingo is a town of 2,700 popula-City of Mexico.

MONEY FOR POTTAWATTOMIES. Each Member of the Tribe at Dowagiae, Mich., Gets \$100.

was paid to every man, woman and child in the Pottawattomic tribe of Indians at Dowagiac this afternoon. The Probate Judge of Case county interferred yesterday and the question as to whether the money should be paid to Indians under age of the their guardians was argued pro and common the form of their guardians was argued pro and common the form of their guardians was argued pro and common the smoke was tilling, to the griss was added to the form of the money should be paid to Indians who are badly in need of money, imagined everted that they were to be "turned down" again but to-day the Judge with chew all objections and the money was table to the form of the state of the burding rooms to the problem of the money was that they was a state of the burding rooms to the problem of the problem of the state of the burding rooms to the problem of the burding rooms to the problem of t NILES, Mich., Jan. 17 .- A check for \$100

con trial is New thesis on the charge of malences choosing. A longer working was traditional was traditional who had been applied that The principle jumped up and melaing a heavy stakehold, planted at the witness. Surject William Surject William Cartest, who was on the locate arone and yellow the biases, along the principle of the state of the first sta

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LIVELY BLAZE AT PLAZA HOTEL

HOTEL GUESTS SENT FLYING BY FIRE ON SEVENTH STORY.

Chambermalds Win Glory as Flame Fighters, and Trouble Is Confined to Three Rooms-The Fireproof Character of Building Prevents Serious Happenings.

Fire was discovered in a room on the seventh floor of the Plaza Hotel, Fifth avehue and Fifty-ninth street, yesterday afternoon and gained such headway before anything could be done to check it, that had not the building been of fire-proof construction there must have been a serious time. As it was the flames were confined to three rooms, which were all ablaze when the firemen arrived. There were, of course, many persons in the building, but the guests kept cool. No one was hurt.

The fire started in the suite of rooms numbered 209, 211 and 213 occupied by Earnest Staples, a dealer in coal, who has an office at 1 Broadway. This suite is on the Fifty-ninth street side and faces the inside of the building. A brother-in-law of Mr. Staples, G. R. Allerton, has been living in the suite for the last few days since Mrs. Staples was taken to St. Luke's Hospital to be operated upon for appendicitis. Mr. Allerton, who is one of the survivors of the Windsor Hotel fire, was in one of the rooms of the suite yesterday afternoon and was dressing after a bath when he noticed that it was becoming strangely warm. He thought nothing of it, however, until, glancing up he saw flames leaping through the transom. Opening the door he found the adjoining room, which was used by Mr. Staples as a dressing room, blazing furiously. He rushed through the flames without trying to save anything, and ran down the hall to notify the hotel people at the office of the fire. On his way he ran into a chambermaid, Annie Joyce, knocking her down.

"There's a fire in Mr. Staples's room. Don't cause any excitement and I'll be back in a minute," he said, and dashed to the elevator. Luckily, a car was passing the floor, and Mr. Allerton was in the hotel office in a jiffy.

There he found Supt. Budlong. The clerks at the desk were also notified and an alarm was turned in from a signal box Budlong and Mr. Allerton then there. rushed back to the biaze.

When they reached the seventh floor a dense black smoke was coming from the private hallway of the Staples suite. Other people who had rooms on that floor were running to the elevator and were ouickly carried out of danger; but the chambermaid, Annie Joyce, and another champermaid Annie Dobson, who was also stationed on that floor, stood their ground and did their best to quiet the guests. The two chambermaids, Mr. Allerton,

Budlong and a houseman named John Sheridan made a rush for the fire apparatus.

net of "A tientieman of France" at Walinch's Theatre inst evening. Kyris liesion aligned end cut his forehead. The injury was not serious enough to prevent him

NEW PRESIDENT OF WILLIAMS. PAIR OF CHECK SHARPS CAUGHT Rev. Dr. Henry Hopkins, Son of the Late

Mark Hopkins, Elected. The trustees of Williams College, at a

meeting held at the Hotel Manhattan yesterday, elected the Rev. Henry Hopkins, D. D. of Kansas City, Mo., to be President of Williams College, filling the vacancy made by the resignation of Dr. Franklin Carter, which took place last June. The choice of Dr. Hopkins was unanimous.

Prof. John Haskell Hewitt, who has been acting President of the college since the resignation of Dr. Carter, will continue to hold the office until the inauguration of Dr. Hopkins, which will probably take place at commencement next June, though no definite arrangements for the inauguration

have yet been made. Henry Hopkins is a son of the late Mark Hopkins, who served as President of Williams from 1836 to 1872. He was born at Williamstown in 1837 and was graduated from Williams College in the class of 1858, after which he studied theology at the Union Theological Seminary for two years and entered the ministry in 1861. In the same year he received a personal commission from President Lincoln as army hospital chaplain and served at Alexandria, Va., until 1864. He was instrumental in securing legislation in Congress for national soldiers'

Dr. Hopkins was pastor of the Second Congregational Church at Westfield, Mass., from 1866 to 1880, when he resigned to become pastor of the First Congregational Church of Kansas City, which pulpit he still occupies. He is chaplain of the Sons of the Revolution of the State of Missouri, a corporate member and Vice-President of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, a trustee of Drury College, Missouri, and a member of the National Association of Charities and Correction. He has been a trustee of Williams College for fifteen years and has always been in close touch with the college. At the meeting of trustees yesterday the

Rev. Robert Russell Booth, senior member of the board, who has been a trustee for thirty-six years, presided. A minute to the memory of Trustee Horace E. Scudder of Cambridge, who died recently, was adopted

W. H. Hollister of the class of '70 was elected Secretary of the board.

STRICKEN SPEECHLESS IN A CAB. Middle-Aged Man Could Not Reply When

He Heard Demand for Fare. Patrick McCue, a cabman, picked up a fare on Fifth avenue, near Sixtieth street, late yesterday afternoon and was ordered to drive to the Waldorf-Astoria. The fare was middle aged and not very well dressed. He tried to get a room at the Waldorf, but failed. Then he ordered McCue to drive him to the Hotel Earlington in West Twentyseventh street. He couldn't get a room

Henry F. Digner changepeared on Line or the it accounted of arcaling pieces \$6,000 from planets of Orlandon from who are mention to continue at the Front street. When Lo-

PATER A PARTY TORING Bearing Frem bearages

FOOLED A SALOONKEEPER, BUT FAILED WITH A BANK.

Seant Ceremony Used at the Fifth Avenue With a Young Man in a Hurry for Cash and a Pal Who Waited Nearby for the Profits -- Locked Up Protesting.

A slim young man with good clothes and an Italian accent walked into the Fifth Avenue Bank about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon and presented to the paying teller a check which he asked to have certified. The check was for \$350. The signature purported to be that of Frederick Haas, a customer of the bank. The paying teller looked at the signature

for a moment and then touched a button which made a little bell at the front door ring twice sharply. The clerks all looked over their shoulders cautiously and made ready to jump. Up from his seat in the front window of the bank, outside the counter, sprang Theodore Hetzler the confidential clerk of the President. He stepped behind the young man at the paying teller's window. "Hurry up," said the young man to the

paying teller, "I can't wait." "Maybe you'll have to wait," said the teller, and nodded to Mr. Hetzler. The young man found himself whirled around and propelled into a corner, where he was allowed to sit in the President's chair and get his breath. When he got it, he said that he would have to go, because he was

in a great hurry. Meantime another clerk had brought in Special Policeman Thatcher, who is hired to stand outside the bank and look imposing when the carriages come up with the many women patrons who have made the bank known as "the Ladies' Bank." He also has other uses. Thatcher picked the young man with the Italian accent up by the slack of his trousers and the scruff of his neck and carried him down cellar, where he was allowed to cool off while Private Detective Fuller was sent for.

Mr. Fuller and his men had been investigating for three days the forging of another check for \$400, to which Mr. Haas's name had been signed. It had been passed on Morris M. Tischler, a dealer in liquors at on Morris M. Tischler, a dealer in liquors at 2018 Second avenue, by a man who had presented a card which seemed to show that he was J. Herbert, a plumber of 1839 Third avenue. On Mr. Fuller's arrival he sent for Mr. Tischler, who at once identified the slim young man as J. Herbert.

The young man said, however, that his name was Joe Setimo and that the name Markett was assumed by him to fit the same

Herbert was assumed by him to fit the card This had been given to him by one Roderick who had introduced him to Tachler. Setimo said that Mr. Roderick had given him \$5 to use the name Herbert for the purpose of cashing the four-hundred-dollar check. Mr. Roderick had also sent him into the bank to attend to the certification of the \$350 check and was even then out-

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mations more apportating and deligating are terminated. Try a 3 proper partiage.

JERSEY MOSQUITO DEFENDED.

Bite of Singing Kind Cures Rheumatism, Say Opponents of New Plot Against It.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 17.-Prof. T. B. Smith, the State entomologist, said to-day that he would ask the Legislature next week to pass a bill appropriating \$10,000 for the investigation and extermination of the New Jersey mosquito.

The members from Sussex, Hunterdon, Warren and Morris counties, it is expected, will fight the proposed legislation on the ground that the real singing species of mosquito is beneficial to rheumatic natives. Ex-Assemblyman Righter of Morris, who fought valiantly all efforts to legislate against the New Jersey mosquito a few years ago, declared that the bite of the mosquito had proved a sure cure for rheumatism. Prof Smith says scientists are hazy on the question of whether the mosquito is wholly injurious to mankind or partly beneficial

CROKER TO SAIL ON FEB. 6. That Is the Ex-Boss's Plan of Procedure

at the Present Time. Richard Croker will sail for home on Feb. 6, according to plans of which he has told his friends something. Mr. Croker's plans are always subject to rearrangement, but this is the date he has set in recent conversations.

BISHOP IN CONTEMPT? The Right Rev. P. J. Donahoe Summoned

to Answer In Court. CUMBERLAND, Md., Jan. 17 .- The Circuit Court of Barbour county, W. Va., has summoned the Rt. Rev. P. J. Donahoe, Bishop of Wheeling, to show cause why he should not be fined or sent to jail for contempt. Bishop Donahoe and William T. White are executors of the estate of John Zotz of Terra Alta, who willed one-half of his

estate to the Terra Alta Catholic Church, the other half to be divided among three friends. Frank H. Zotz, a rephew, contended that the part of the will giving the money to the church was illegal, and the court held his contention good.

Bishop Dohahoe refuses to cooperate in paying back half the money, the property having been sold to Frank Zotz. Hence the rule for contempt.

CAPT. PERRY MAY BE REBUKED. A Speech He Is Alleged to Have Made in Chile Offends Argentine.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.-Capt. Thomas Perry of the battleship Iowa made a speech recently at a banquet in Valparaiso, Chile, in which it is alleged he said that if there was a war between Chile and any other South American country, Chile would be victorious. This speech, according to report, gave great offence in Buenos Ayres, report, gave great offence in Buenos Ayres, as it was made at a time when there was danger of war between Chile and the Argentine Republic. Secretary Long has written a letter to Capt. Perry, calling his attention to these reports, and asking him for an explanation. Should Capt. Perry acknowledge that he made the remarks alleged he will probably be rebuked.

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RED SIGNALS PASSED OFTEN.

18 TIMES LAST YEAR CENTRAL'S TUNNEL REPORTS SHOW.

Engineers Protested They Couldn't See the Lights-Complained of Useless Torpedoes, Too -One Man Relegated to a Freight Hauler; Others Cauttoned -But the Best Engineers Broke the Rule-One Says He Left His Cab and Stepped on a Lamp He Couldn't See -Another Reported a Green Light as Looking White in Smoke-The Coroner Rules Wisker's Counsel Out,

Joseph H. Franklin, track superintendent of the New York Central Railroad from Mott Haven to Forty-second street, was again the most important witness yesterday before the Coroner's jury, which is inquiring into the Park avenue tunnel disaster of Jan. 8. Mr. Franklin brought with him, and certified to the accuracy of, eighteen reports of engineers for 1901, in which the shortcomings of these engineers in the matter of obeying signals in the Park avenue tunnel were gone into at length. The reports tended to confirm the testimony of Mr. Franklin on Thursday, that engineers had repeatedly complained to him that they were unable to see the signal lights in the tunnel on dark and foggy days.

Next in interest to the testimony of Mr. Franklin came that of several trainmen and experts of the New York Central. One expert said boldly that he regarded the sending of a man through the tunnel with a passenger train, when the man had no previous training as a passenger engineer, as negligence. It did not come out in the testimony that Wisker had not had the instruction and advice of an old hand before being put in charge of the Hariein train which caused the disaster of week, but District Attorney Jerome asked him privately if he had had the bereat of a pilot's advice before being put in thatge

of a train, and he is said to have replied

that he had not. The testimony of other witnesses who were in the tunnel just after the accident raised an interesting point just before the close of proceedings for the day, which will undoubtedly be gone into further on Monday, when the inquest will be resumed. It was that Brakeman Barnum of the New Haven train, in running back from his train to signal an approaching train on the same track, may have obscured the red signal at Fifty-ninth street, which told Engineer Wisker that there was danger on the block ahead. It was shown that he must have been within a few feet of that signal, which is on the ground, when Wiscer's train went dashing by

TUNNEL RAILS ARE GREASY AT TIMES. Mr. Jerome began his examination of Supt. Franklin by inquiring if the rails in the tunnel were ever greasy. Mr. Franklin said that they sometimes got that way from the lubricating oil used in the signal

Q is there any rule against an engineer making up time in the tunnel? A There is no rule shout it, but he cannot do it.
Q so a man would not be censured for making time in the tunnel? A No, but he couldn't make more than a minute at the most. Q Isn't it a fact that the distance in which Q Isn't it a fact that the channel in which an engine can be retained depends upon a variety of conditions such as speed, power, the weight of the train and the condition of the trained? A Of course

Q Do you think that the same rate of speed can be safely maintained by heavy and light trains side? A I think any train can run safely at twenty-five to twenty-eight miles

SMALLY Proof would not make an event point of the latest and the t